

1 **Title:** Aqueous dissolution of Li-Na borosilicates: insights from machine learning and
2 experiments

3 **Authors:** Thomas L. Goût^{1,*}, Joseph N. P. Lillington¹, James Walden¹,
4 Christina Boukouvala^{1,2}, Emilie Ringe^{1,2}, Mike T. Harrison³, Ian Farnan¹

5 ¹Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2
6 3EQ, UK.

7 ²Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, University of Cambridge, 27 Charles
8 Babbage Road, Cambridge, CB3 0FS, UK.

9 ³National Nuclear Laboratory, Central Laboratory, Sellafield, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1PG,
10 UK.

11 ***Corresponding author:** T.L. Goût (tlg29@cam.ac.uk)

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16 **Abstract**

17 Previously acquired data could be utilised in predicting glass dissolution kinetics at long times,
18 but the application of machine learning methods needs to be assessed. Here, the dissolution
19 processes of two Li-Na borosilicate ‘base glasses’ at 40 and 90 °C were investigated by SEM-
20 EDS, NMR and Raman spectroscopy. Boron and sodium machine learning predictions were
21 excellent when considering other normalised releases as features. However, extrapolating the
22 training feature space yielded poorer performance and the absence of incorporated waste

23 elements resulted in underestimated predicted long-term lithium and silicon releases. Faster
24 dissolution kinetics were observed for MW than MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li but the MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li gel layer at 40 °C
25 trapped more water. Whilst BO₃ rings leached preferentially at 90 °C, surface enrichment of
26 BO₃ at 40 °C suggested [BO₄]⁻ transformed prior to dissolution. Results were consistent with
27 interdiffusion being significant at 40 °C and interface-coupled dissolution precipitation beyond
28 7 days at 90 °C.

29 1. Introduction

30 Quaternary mixed-alkali borosilicate glasses are of particular interest to the nuclear industry,
31 being used in the UK as ‘base glass frits’ to which calcined high-level waste (HLW), arising
32 from spent nuclear fuel reprocessing activities, is added during vitrification [1–6]. The Li-Na
33 borosilicate base glass composition used for HLW vitrification in the UK, MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li, and its
34 original formulation, MW, are presented in Table 1. MW has an equimolar Li/Na ratio to
35 optimise transport properties important to the vitrification process, such as melt viscosity, and
36 its B contents provides a compromise between optimising waste loading, as limited by Mo
37 solubility, and aqueous durability [7–10]. As the addition of LiNO₃ to the liquid waste
38 improves its reactivity during calcination, half the molar Li of MW was removed (MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li)
39 to yield an equimolar Li/Na ratio in the final glass at a HLW loading of 25 wt.% [1,10].

40 Investigations which aim to constrain compositional and environmental effects on the
41 dissolution of simulant HLW glasses are rendered difficult as the product HLW glasses
42 typically comprise over 20 elements [11–14]. As such, simplified analogues are frequently used
43 in mechanistic studies to better constrain these effects (*e.g.* [15–20]). In this view, dissolution
44 experiments on MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li can provide valuable insights into the effects of varying the
45 concentration of total alkalis (Li+Na) and the Li/Na ratio on pristine glass structure and
46 dissolution behaviour without convoluting effects, such as complex altered layer structures and
47 secondary phase precipitate assemblages. Indeed, in the absence of gel-forming species which
48 require charge compensation, such as Al or Zr, alkali metals are solely removed from solution
49 through secondary phase precipitation [21]. However, predicting compositional effects on
50 chemical durability at long times remains a significant challenge in glass science [22].

51 Recent advances in machine learning (ML) techniques have led to significant improvements in
52 the prediction of the physical properties of glasses, and can even automate the extraction of

53 these data from the literature (*e.g.* [23–30]). Analytical models often need to assume the
54 mechanisms of glass dissolution (*e.g.* [31–33]), but these mechanisms have remained debated
55 [22,34,35]. ML methods can make use of previously acquired data to predict dissolution
56 behaviour without strictly being bound to assumptions of the underpinning mechanisms [36].
57 Indeed, decades of research have produced a large bank of experimental data on glass
58 dissolution kinetics, with data-driven techniques such as ML presenting a potential means of
59 making further use of these data in predicting future kinetics. Further, physics-informed ML
60 can improve prediction accuracy and interpretability through using inflexible algorithms with
61 physical constraints, such as glass network topology [37,38]. The successful application of ML
62 methods to glass dissolution demands large datasets near-homogeneously spanning a diverse
63 compositional and environmental feature space (*e.g.*, pH and temperature) [39]. However, ML
64 has yet to successfully predict the long-term dissolution behaviour of simplified or complex
65 HLW glasses solely from initial experimental conditions [40]. Rather, accurate predictions
66 presently rely on the inclusion of pH and the concentrations of other non-response species as
67 features [39,41].

68 Here, the dissolution behaviour of MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li was investigated by a combination of
69 experimental and ML techniques. The aims of this study were to (1) investigate the
70 performance of the ALTGLASS database (described in Section 2.5) [42,43] on comparatively
71 simplistic glass compositions and dissolution conditions largely outside its feature space; (2)
72 investigate the ability of ML to predict the dissolution behaviour of two compositionally similar
73 glasses; and (3) deepen our understanding of the effects of simultaneously varying the Li/Na
74 ratio and total alkali contents on the dissolution kinetics, secondary phase assemblages and
75 altered layer structures of complex HLW glasses using comparatively simple base glasses as
76 analogues.

77 The dissolution kinetics of MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li in static dissolution experiments in deionised
78 water at 40 and 90 °C were followed from 6 hours to 28 days, which may be considered a
79 standard timescale for short-term experiments (*e.g.* [11,44–46]). This dataset was then studied
80 further with ML techniques. Finally, differences in dissolution behaviour with composition and
81 temperature were then reconciled with glass structure, altered layer structures and secondary
82 phase assemblages through XRD, SEM-EDS (particle surfaces and cross-sections), NMR (^{11}B
83 and ^{23}Na SP MAS and ^6Li - ^1H CP), Raman spectroscopy and geochemical modelling
84 (PHREEQC).

85 2. Experimental

86 2.1. Sample preparation and initial characterisation

87 MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li frits were initially synthesised in a 0.5 to 5.0 mm size fraction by James
88 Kent Ltd (Stoke-on-Trent, UK). For all dissolution experiments, as-received glass frits were
89 crushed in an agate mortar and pestle and sieved with stainless-steel sieves to a 75 to 150 μm
90 size fraction. Powders were washed following an adaptation of the ASTM PCT washing
91 procedure [47] solely using absolute ethanol to minimise prior exposure to water species before
92 being dried at 90 °C for 16 hours. Secondary electron (SE) scanning electron microscope
93 (SEM) images showed the particles were free from adhering fines (Figure S1). Particle size
94 distributions of the prepared powders of were measured by laser diffraction (Malvern
95 Mastersizer E) using an enclosed cell filled with absolute ethanol with 50 to 100 mg of sample.
96 Distributions appeared uniform (Figure S2), with mean particle diameters of 121 ± 55 and 134
97 $\pm 65 \mu\text{m}$ (1 S.D.) for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li, respectively. Glass densities were measured by
98 Archimedes' principle with three to six replicates using ambient temperature deionised (DI)
99 water. Measured densities agreed with laboratory-synthesised glasses presented in the literature
100 (Table 1) [48,49].

101

102 2.2. Glass compositions

103 The nominal compositions of MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li are provided in Table 1 [1,7,49–52]. The
104 Dell-Bray model predicts the fraction of B present in tetrahedral coordination, N_4 , as a function
105 of the glass K ($K = [\text{SiO}_2]/[\text{B}_2\text{O}_3]$) and R values ($R = [\text{M}_2\text{O}]/[\text{B}_2\text{O}_3]$, $M = \text{Li}$ or Na) [53]. The
106 model is briefly summarised as (1) $R \leq 0.5$, all added M_2O ($M = \text{Li}$, Na) converts BO_3 to
107 $[\text{BO}_4]^- \text{M}^+$ to increase N_4 ; (2) $0.5 < R \leq 0.5 + K/16$, added M_2O continues to increase N_4 with
108 the tetrahedral B units linking Si tetrahedra to form reedmergnerite groups (a B tetrahedron

109 connected to four Si tetrahedra); and (3) $0.5 + K/16 < R \leq 0.5 + K/4$, all alkalis form non-
110 bridging oxygen (NBO) bonds with Si tetrahedra to increase Q^3 at the expense of Q^4 (Q^n is the
111 fraction of Si tetrahedra with n bridging oxygen bonds) and N_4 remains constant with M_2O
112 concentration. The Dell-Bray model predicts identical N_4 for both glasses, such that MW has
113 a significantly larger estimated Q^3 than MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li (Equation 1) [54–56].

$$114 \quad Q^3 = \frac{2([M_2O] - N_4[B_2O_3])}{[SiO_2]} \quad (1)$$

115 For compositional analyses, as-received MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li pieces were mounted in two-part
116 epoxy resin (EpoFix, Struers) and polished using SiC papers and diamond pastes to 3 μm .
117 Electron probe microanalysis (EPMA) was used to determine Si concentrations (Cameca
118 SX100) using a beam diameter of 10 μm to analyse 70 spots on each sample, calibrating with
119 a diopside standard. Concentrations of Li, B, and Na were determined by laser ablation
120 inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS; ESI NWR193^{UC} with Perkin-
121 Elmer NexION 350D) using the EPMA SiO_2 concentration as the internal standard. Fifteen
122 $2500 \mu\text{m}^2$ squares were ablated per sample. NIST SRM 610, 612 and 614 and BCR-2G (USGS)
123 were analysed as standards and international simple glass (ISG, MoSci) [2] as an in-house
124 standard, as B is a trace element in NIST SRM 610 ($350 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ [57]). Analysed compositions
125 were within 10% of their nominal values with relative standard deviation (RSD) values < 5%
126 (Table 1).

127

128 *Table 1: Nominal and measured compositions (oxide mol.%), descriptors of the glass network and densities of MW and MW-*
 129 *$\frac{1}{2}$ Li. Nominal compositions were compiled from literature data [1,7,49–52] and nominal densities represent measured values*
 130 *for laboratory-synthesised glasses presented in the literature [48,49]. Compositions were determined by EPMA (SiO₂) and*
 131 *LA-ICP-MS (others) with associated uncertainties of 2% and 5%, respectively. Densities were determined by Archimedes’*
 132 *principle with uncertainties given as 1 S.D. Glass network descriptors were calculated as: $R = ([Li_2O] + [Na_2O])/[B_2O_3]$, K*
 133 *$= [SiO_2]/[B_2O_3]$ [48], Q^3 is calculated following Equation 1 [54], and $N_4 = 0.5 + K/16$ [53].*

Oxide (mol.%)	Nominal		Measured	
	MW	MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li	MW	MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li
Li ₂ O	10.5	5.6	10.8 ± 0.5	6.0 ± 0.3
B ₂ O ₃	18.5	19.5	17.6 ± 0.9	20.5 ± 1.0
Na ₂ O	10.5	11.1	10.8 ± 0.5	10.9 ± 0.5
SiO ₂	60.5	63.8	60.8 ± 1.2	62.7 ± 1.3
R (mol mol ⁻¹)	1.13	0.85	1.23	0.82
K (mol mol ⁻¹)	3.27	3.27	3.46	3.06
N ₄ (calculated)	0.704	0.704	0.716	0.691
Q ³ (calculated)	0.26	0.09	0.30	0.09
Density (g cm ⁻³)	2.47	2.45	2.47 ± 0.01	2.45 ± 0.09

134

135 **2.3. Static dissolution experiments**

136 Static dissolution experiments followed the ASTM PCT-B methodology [47]: 0.395 ± 0.005 g
 137 75 to 150 μm MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li powders were leached in stainless-steel vessels with PTFE
 138 inserts using 4.0 ± 0.1 mL DI water (18.2 MΩ.cm at 25.0 °C) for a geometric glass surface area
 139 to solution volume ratio (S_{geo}/V) of 2150 ± 80 m⁻¹. The temperature was maintained at 40.0
 140 and 90.0 ± 0.1 °C for 0.25, 1, 7, 14 and 28 days (Grant Instruments dry block heaters).
 141 Experiments took place in triplicate alongside four blank replicates.

142 Leachates were filtered using 0.45 μm nylon syringe filters (Whatman Puradisc). The
 143 pH(25°C) of samples aliquots were measured (Mettler Toledo LE438 pH electrode with FE20
 144 FiveEasy pH meter; NIST traceable 4.00, 7.00 and 10.00 ± 0.01 pH buffers). Based upon
 145 triplicate sample pH measurements, a conservative uncertainty of ± 0.20 pH units was assigned
 146 to each average value. Glass powders were rinsed out of the reaction vessels with DI water and
 147 then dried at 90.0 ± 0.1 °C for 16 hours.

148 Leachates were analysed for Li, B, Na and Si concentrations by ICP optical emission
 149 spectroscopy (ICP-OES) (Agilent 5100) with SPS-SW2 (Spectrapure Standards) as a
 150 secondary standard. Detection limits were 0.03, 0.20, 0.06 and 0.10 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for Li, B, Na and
 151 Si, respectively, with RSD of $\pm 10\%$ for the Li, B and Na concentrations and $\pm 20\%$ to the Si
 152 concentrations based upon the measured recoveries of SPS-SW2 and sample replicate RSD.
 153 Measured sample concentrations were corrected for blank concentrations and leachant mass
 154 loss and used to calculate normalised elemental releases (Equation 2), where NL_i is the
 155 normalised elemental release of element i (g m^{-2}), C_i is the corrected concentration of i
 156 measured in solution (g L^{-1}), f_i is the elemental mass fraction of i in the pristine glass (unitless),
 157 S_{geo} is the geometric glass surface area (m^2) and V is the leachant volume (L) [47]. Note that
 158 S_{geo} is used rather than a measured specific surface area as the former corresponds more closely
 159 to the reactive surface area of the glass [58]. NL_B is used as a tracer of the extent of dissolution
 160 as B is not anticipated to be retained in the gel or incorporated into secondary phases in
 161 significant concentrations where the dissolution and subsequent transport of leached B species
 162 are not rate limiting [34,59].

$$163 \quad NL_i = \frac{C_i}{f_i \frac{S_{geo}}{V}} \quad (2)$$

164 NL_i uncertainties were propagated from the solution concentration measurements ($\pm 20\%$ Si,
 165 10% others), elemental mass fractions ($\pm 2\%$ Si, 5% others) and the S_{geo}/V ratio ($\pm 15\%$)
 166 following Equation 3 [60–62]; where $\hat{\sigma}$ is the relative uncertainty of the associated quantity
 167 and $\bar{C}_{i,b}$ is the average corrected blank concentration (g L^{-1}). The uncertainty associated with
 168 S_{geo}/V arises due to approximating the glass particles as spheres and is thought to represent a
 169 conservative overestimation [63,64]. Dissolution rates at time t , $r_{i,t}$ ($\text{g m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$), can then be
 170 calculated as the first order derivative of NL_i with respect to time [65].

$$\hat{\sigma}_{NL_i} = \sqrt{\frac{(\hat{\sigma}_{C_i} C_i)^2 + (\hat{\sigma}_{\bar{C}_{i,b}} \bar{C}_{i,b})^2}{(C_i - \bar{C}_{i,b})^2} + (\hat{\sigma}_{f_i})^2 + \left(\frac{\hat{\sigma}_{S_{geo}}}{V}\right)^2} \approx \sqrt{(\hat{\sigma}_{C_i})^2 + (\hat{\sigma}_{f_i})^2 + \left(\frac{\hat{\sigma}_{S_{geo}}}{V}\right)^2} \quad (3)$$

Equivalent altered layer thicknesses e_i (μm) were calculated from C_i , V and the mass of glass, m (g), following the Shrinking Core model (Equation 4). e_i represents the altered glass thickness required to produce the measured solution concentrations assuming spherical glass particles of initial radius R_0 which are uniformly altered. That is, i is not retained [46,66,67].

$$e_i = R_0 \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{C_i V}{f_i m} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \right] \quad (4)$$

Assuming e_{Si} represents the equivalent thickness due to network hydrolysis, $e_{\{B,Li,Na\}}$ - e_{Si} represents the equivalent thickness due to interdiffusion [17]. Regressions where $NL_{\{B,Li,Na\}}$ evolve linearly with respect to $t^{0.5}$, hence where diffusion is assumed to significantly contribute to the observed kinetics, can then be used to calculate apparent diffusivities, $D_{\{B,Li,Na\}}$, from the glass density, ρ , using Fick's second law of diffusion following Equation 5 [46,65].

$$e_{\{B,Li,Na\}} - e_{Si} = \frac{NL_{\{B,Li,Na\}} - NL_{Si}}{\rho} = t^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[4 \frac{D_{\{B,Li,Na\}}}{\pi} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (5)$$

183

184 2.4. Geochemical modelling

185 Geochemical modelling used leachate concentrations with PHREEQC (version 3) software
 186 [68] with the ThermoChimie database (version 10a) [69], which had been modified to include
 187 additional data on SiO_2 polymorphs, Na silicates and Li silicates from the LLNL database [70],
 188 WATEQ4F database [71] and the literature [72] (additional phases described in Table S1).
 189 These additional SiO_2 polymorphs and alkali silicates were considered based upon their
 190 identification in previous studies [4,16,73,74]. Note that the magadiite data solely comprised a
 191 $\log(K)$ value determined at 25 °C, without the thermodynamic data necessary for higher

192 temperature calculations. Calculations did not consider colloids but took place both with and
193 without assuming equilibrium between the solution and air (410 $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ CO_2 and 209 mmol
194 mol^{-1} O_2 [75]).

195 The rate drop transition is controlled by the coupled processes of decreasing thermodynamic
196 affinity for dissolution and limited transport through the altered layer [76]. For the former, a
197 first-order rate law describes the dissolution rate at time t , r_t , as a function of affinity for
198 dissolution of the hydrated gel layer (Equation 6); where $a^*(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$ is an empirical parameter
199 denoting the activity of H_4SiO_4 , $a(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$, at saturation with respect to the gel [77,78].
200 Assuming Li, B and Na are entirely leached from the gel [79], $a^*(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$ represents the
201 $a(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$ at saturation with respect to amorphous silica, $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$ [13,64,80,81]. The time at
202 which dissolution evolves beyond this first-order rate law has been proposed as a quantitative
203 indicator of the start of the residual rate regime [16,82]. Here, the initial rate, r_0 , was assumed
204 equal to the measured 6-hour B normalised release rate.

$$205 \quad r_t = r_0 \left(1 - \frac{a_{\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4}}{a_{\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4}^*} \right) \quad (6)$$

206

207 **2.5. Machine learning datasets and methodology**

208 The ALTGLASS version 3 database [42,43] (version 4 is available [83]) was used in training
209 machine learning algorithms for predictions on the MW base glass data generated herein. This
210 database comprises 2636 observations from dissolution studies (ASTM PCT-A and PCT-B
211 [47]) on approximately 450 HLW and low activity waste (LAW) glass compositions, largely
212 in DI water at 90 °C, S_{geo}/V of 2000 m^{-1} .

213 Feature reduction was performed during data cleaning: features which were not applicable to
214 the dataset generated here, not applicable to predicting dissolution behaviour, weakly

215 correlated with the normalised releases or highly correlated with other features were removed.
216 The removal of these features was also justified through examining the relative importance of
217 features calculated using trained tree-based algorithms. Only experiments conducted in DI
218 water were used in training and testing, such that leachant type was not used as a feature.
219 Ultimately, the full set of features and responses included (range of ALTGLASS values
220 excluding other leachant types provided in parentheses): time (0.42 to 7426 days), mass of
221 glass leached (1.00 to 40.00 g), leachant volume (5.0 to 400.0 mL), S_{geo}/V ratio (1860 to
222 39100 m^{-1}), density (2.373 to 3.004 g cm^{-3}), temperature (90 to $200 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$), final leachate
223 pH(25°C) (8.90 to 13.66), glass composition as elemental mass fractions (41 features, oxide
224 wt.% compositions reported: 0.1 to 18.5% B_2O_3 , 32.8 to 60.6% SiO_2 , 0.0 to 7.91% Li_2O and
225 2.5 to 27.5% Na_2O) and $\text{NL}_{\{\text{B,Li,Na,Si}\}}$ (concentrations reported: 2.4 to $35230.6 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ B, 11.4
226 to $45200.0 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ Si, 0.0 to $6750.0 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ Li and 8.0 to $76318.2 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ Na). A heatmap
227 of the correlations between features prior to feature reduction and histograms showing the
228 positions of the base glass nominal compositions within the ALTGLASS compositional feature
229 space are given in Figures S3 and S4, respectively.

230 Selected features were divided into subsets, with the response as either the normalised B, Li,
231 Na or Si release to investigate whether accurate predictions of dissolution behaviour could be
232 made from the experimental setup alone and what features were most related to the response.
233 Feature subsets included: experimental features (time, mass of glass, glass mass fractions, glass
234 density, leachant volume, S_{geo}/V ratio and temperature); experimental features and leachate
235 pH; and experimental features, leachate pH and the other normalised releases not considered
236 in the response (*e.g.*, Li, Na and Si releases as features with B release as the response).

237 The ML algorithms used herein ranged from inflexible linear models with excellent
238 interpretability to more complex non-parametric models: linear regressions (LR: multiple,
239 LASSO, Ridge, Elastic-net), support-vector machines (SVM: linear, polynomial and radial

240 basis function kernels), tree-based ensemble methods (gradient boosted, random forests and
241 bagged random forests) and a single-layer feed-forward neural network (NN). Using a range
242 of models varying in complexity affords an assessment of the model interpretability-
243 complexity trade-off, allowing the simplest model possible to be selected to effectively
244 describe the feature-response relationship.

245 In training and testing, the datasets were first divided into ALTGLASS and base glass data.
246 Nested cross-validation (CV) [84,85] was then used to randomly partition the ALTGLASS
247 database into independent training and test sets using a three-repeat five-fold CV method (outer
248 CV), with algorithms being trained and their associated hyperparameters (variables used to
249 control the learning process) being optimised using a five-fold CV method (inner CV) on the
250 training set. Algorithm performance was assessed using the test folds of the outer CV
251 (ALTGLASS data) and the base glass dissolution data to calculate average R^2 and CV estimates
252 of the test mean squared error (MSE) (Equation 7) for each dataset separately; where y_i and \hat{y}_i
253 represent the measured and predicted response values of observation i , respectively, and n
254 represents the number of observations in the dataset. The use of both R^2 and MSE provides a
255 robust assessment of performance, with the former providing a standardised measure of overall
256 model performance and the latter being more sensitive to outlying predictions.

257
$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \quad (7)$$

258 **2.6. SEM-EDS and XRD**

259 SEM images (FEI QEMSCAN 650F) and energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS)
260 compositional maps were acquired for leached powders to investigate secondary phase
261 assemblages and polished resin-mounted leached powders (pristine powders also resin-
262 mounted and analysed as controls) to investigate altered layer structures. Resin-mounted
263 samples were prepared and polished to a 0.25 μm finish using absolute ethanol lubricant to

264 avoid interactions with water. SE images were acquired under high vacuum (10^{-3} to 10^{-4} Pa)
265 using an Everhart-Thornley detector (ETD) with a 2 to 5 kV beam, spot size of 1 to 3 and
266 working distance of 5.0 to 7.5 mm. Backscattered electron (BSE) images and EDS maps were
267 acquired under low vacuum (10^{-2} Pa) using a CBS detector and Bruker XFlash 6 | 30 silicon
268 drift detectors, respectively, with a 20 kV beam, spot size of 4 and working distance of
269 13.0 mm, with maps being acquired for 10 to 30 minutes.

270 X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) (Bruker D8 Advance, Cu K_{α} source) took place on the pristine
271 and 28-day leached powders. A Si low background sample holder was used to analyse
272 approximately 20 mg powder from 3 to 60° (2θ) with a 0.05° step size and 7 s dwell per step
273 (7980 s run time). XRD confirmed that the pristine glasses were amorphous (Figure S5).

274

275 **2.7. Solid-state NMR experiments and quantification**

276 All experiments were carried out with double resonance magic-angle spinning (MAS) probes
277 using either a Varian Infinity Plus NMR spectrometer with 11.74 T magnet or Varian Infinity
278 NMR spectrometer with 9.39 T magnet.

279 ^{11}B MAS-NMR experiments at 160.32 MHz (11.74 T) used 15 to 20 mg of pristine sample and
280 85 to 120 mg of 28-day leached sample in 2.5 mm and 4.0 mm zirconia rotors, respectively,
281 spun at 10.0 ± 0.1 kHz using a double resonance MAS probe. Single-pulse (SP) spectra were
282 acquired using a $0.4 \mu\text{s}$ pulse ($\pi/15$) with a 6 s recycle delay for 240 to 256 repetitions. Spectra
283 were referenced to solid NaBH_4 at -42.06 ppm. The ratio of $^{\text{III}}\text{B}$ (BO_3) to $^{\text{IV}}\text{B}$ ($[\text{BO}_4]^-$) units was
284 quantified through fitting the spectra (dmfit software [86]) with four peaks: two for $^{\text{III}}\text{B}$ ring
285 and non-ring resonances using literature NMR parameters [87–90], and two pseudo-Voigt
286 peaks for the $^{\text{IV}}\text{B}$ peak unit reedmergnerite-like (4Si,0B) and danburite-like (3Si,1B) next-
287 nearest neighbour contributions [90,91]. A first-order spinning sideband manifold was fitted to

288 subtract the contribution of the satellite transition spinning sidebands from the ^{IV}B signal from
289 the central transition intensities [92].

290 ^{23}Na MAS-NMR experiments at 132.18 MHz (9.39 T) used 80 to 120 mg of pristine or 28-day
291 leached sample. Spectra were acquired during SP experiments with 4.0 mm zirconia rotors
292 spun at 10.0 ± 0.1 kHz, a pulse width of $1.2 \mu s$ ($\pi/15$) and a recycle delay of 6 s for 900 to 1500
293 repetitions, referencing to 0.1 M NaCl in DI water at 0.0 ppm. Peak fitting (Igor Pro,
294 Wavemetrics) first fitted the pristine spectra with a Lorentzian peak and an exponentially
295 modified Gaussian peak to account for the quadrupolar lineshape (both peaks were interpreted
296 identically). Fixed peak positions were then used to fit the leached spectra with an additional
297 Lorentzian peak. A similar peak observed during simplified glass dissolution under similar
298 conditions was concluded to correspond to a higher symmetry Na environment [93]. In turn,
299 the intensity of this pristine peak was corrected for contributions from the ($\pm 1/2 \leftrightarrow \pm 3/2$)
300 transitions as only the ($-1/2 \leftrightarrow +1/2$) transitions were observed for the pristine glass [94].

301 Static 6Li - 1H CP-NMR experiments used 130 mg of the pristine glass without drying to confirm
302 the absence of a signal from adsorbed water and the 28-day 90 °C samples. Analysis at
303 73.54 MHz for 6Li and 499.72 MHz for 1H (11.74 T) used 7.5 mm silicon nitride rotors with
304 PTFE inserts. Spectra were acquired using 84500 to 125000 repetitions with an $8 \mu s$ pulse on
305 1H ($\pi/2$) and a recycle delay of 3 s, referencing to 1.0 M 6LiCl in DI water at 0.0 ppm.

306 **2.8. Raman spectroscopy**

307 Raman spectroscopy was used to analyse the pristine and 28-day leached samples. Powders
308 were deposited onto an Al foil substrate to minimise the associated background signal. A
309 Horiba LabRam 300 spectrometer was used with a 532 nm excitation laser through a 50x lens
310 with 600 mm^{-1} grating to analyse over the 150 to 2000 cm^{-1} range. Three positions were
311 analysed per sample with 10 accumulations per position, using an incident power of 100 or

312 250 mW with 90 or 40 s exposure time for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li, respectively. 'Rough' and
313 'smooth' surfaces were observed for 90 °C MW, and so both regions were analysed in
314 triplicate. Given the rough particle topography, spectra were interpreted qualitatively.

315

316 3. Results

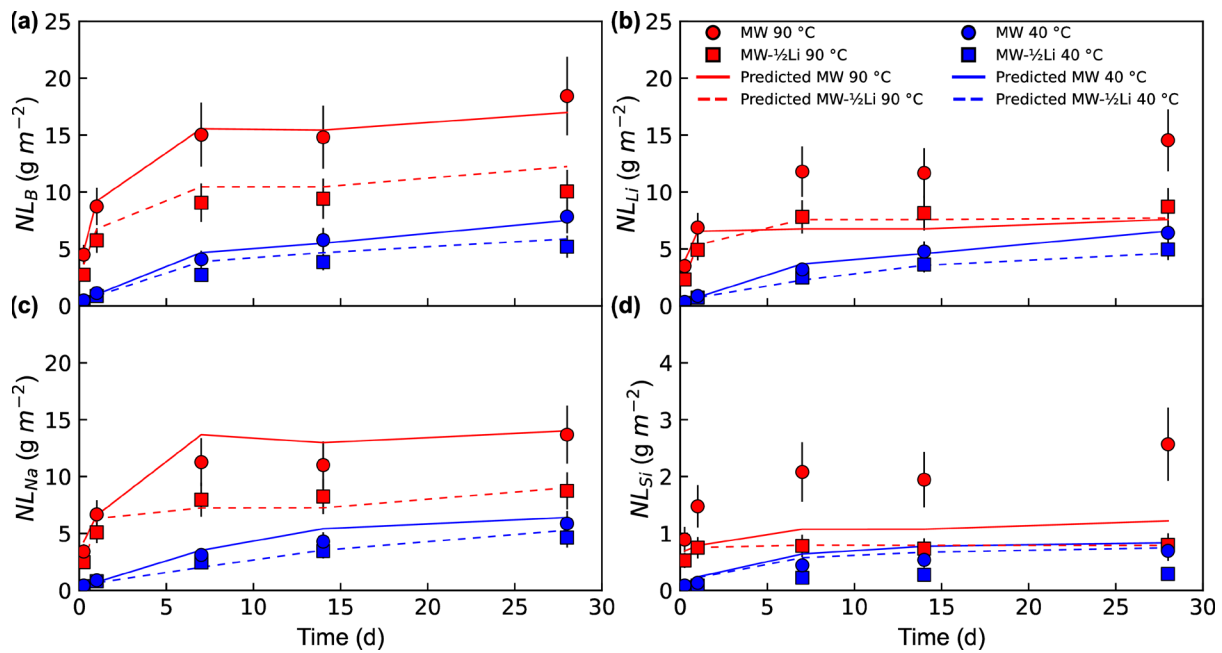
317 3.1. Dissolution kinetics

318 Sample concentrations were significant from the limits of quantification ($< 0.5 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for all
319 species) and were greater than 10 S.D. above their respective mean blank concentrations
320 ($< 0.60 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for Li, B and Na, and $< 3.25 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for Si). RSD values were less than 20%
321 for Si and 10% for all others. SPS-SW2 recoveries were within 10% (note Li is absent).
322 Measured NL_i and the corresponding ML predictions are presented in Figure 1.

323 At 90°C , $NL_{B,Li,Na}$ for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li increased with time up to 7 days before plateauing.
324 The NL_B of MW were consistently higher than MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li, with 28-day leached B fractions and
325 estimated altered layer thicknesses for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li of $21.9 \pm 4.1\%$ and $4.5 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{m}$, respectively,
326 and $39.8 \pm 7.4\%$ and $8.8 \pm 1.6 \mu\text{m}$ for MW, respectively. Similarly, the NL_{Li} was higher for
327 MW except at 1 and 14 days. However, the NL_{Na} of MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li were within uncertainty
328 until 28 days. At 90°C the NL_{Si} reached steady state concentrations of $1567.0 \pm 393.0 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$
329 after 7 days and $514.5 \pm 129.0 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ before 6 hours for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li, respectively.
330 This somewhat contrasts with literature results that the leached fraction of Si is largely
331 unaffected by increasing the $[Na+B]$ concentration for Na borosilicates [95].

332 At 40°C , the $NL_{B,Li,Na}$ increased near-linearly with time (linear regressions yielded
333 $R^2 \geq 0.9180$), with a considerably more modest slowing of the dissolution rate with time than
334 at 90°C . The $NL_{Na,Li}$ of MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li remained within uncertainty throughout
335 dissolution, whilst the NL_B of MW was higher from 7 days onwards. This corresponded to 28-
336 day leached B fractions and estimated altered layer thicknesses for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li of $11.3 \pm 2.1\%$
337 and $2.2 \pm 0.4 \mu\text{m}$, respectively, and for MW of $16.9 \pm 3.2\%$ and $3.4 \pm 0.6 \mu\text{m}$, respectively.
338 Steady-state Si concentrations were attained after 7 days at $186.7 \pm 46.8 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ and $445.3 \pm$
339 $111.7 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li and MW, respectively. Whilst differences in dissolution kinetics

340 between MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li were more apparent at 90 °C, the ratios of the 90 °C $NL_{B,Li,Na}$ to
 341 the 40 °C $NL_{B,Li,Na}$ were within uncertainty for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li throughout dissolution.



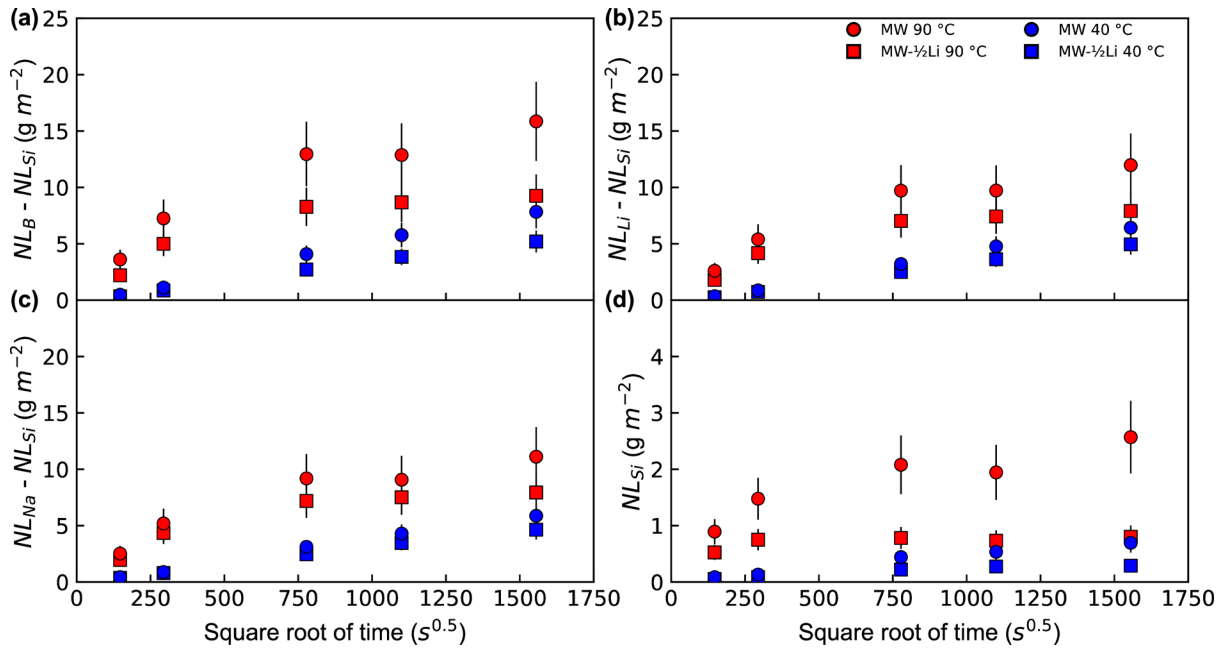
342

343 *Figure 1: Measured normalised B (a), Li (b), Na (c) and Si (d) releases (markers) alongside ML predictions (lines). Predictions*
 344 *were made using a bagged random forest algorithm which considered all available features except the response release.*
 345 *Uncertainties are given to 1 S.D. (propagated using Equation 3) and range from 15 to 30% (RSD).*

346 Assuming NL_{Si} is the contribution of Si network hydrolysis to $NL_{B,Li,Na}$, $NL_{B,Li,Na} - NL_{Si}$
 347 represents the normalised releases through B hydrolysis or ion-exchange (Li,Na) ahead of the
 348 Si hydrolysis front [46,65]. In turn, diffusive processes can be assumed to contribute to the
 349 releases where $NL_{B,Li,Na} - NL_{Si}$ evolves linearly with respect to $t^{0.5}$, allowing for apparent
 350 diffusivities, $D_{B,Li,Na}$, to be extracted by linear regression using Equation 5 [17,82]. The
 351 $NL_{B,Li,Na} - NL_{Si}$ at 40 °C evolved linearly ($R^2 \geq 0.9970$) with $t^{0.5}$ at all durations (Figure 2),
 352 consistent with a single $D_{B,Li,Na}$ of the order $10^{-18}\ m^2\ s^{-1}$ at the timescales studied (Table 2).
 353 Notably, at 40 °C all MW $D_{B,Li,Na}$ exceeded those of MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li despite the $NL_{Li,Na}$ for all
 354 durations and NL_B up to 7 days being within uncertainty (Figure 1), consistent with differences
 355 in diffusion rates relative to hydrolysis for these glasses.

356 The 90 °C $NL_{B,Li,Na} - NL_{Si}$ evolved linearly with $t^{0.5}$ up to 7 days before plateauing to a constant
 357 value. This behaviour is also reflected in the $R^2 \geq 0.9375$ up to 7 days, with $D_{B,Li,Na}$ of the order

358 10^{-17} to 10^{-18} $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$. Beyond 7 days, $D_{\text{B,Li,Na}}$ could not be obtained. This is consistent with a
 359 significant change in the dominant release mechanism of these species. Further, the MW
 360 $D_{\text{B,Li,Na}}$ were approximately twice those of MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li. The orders of magnitude of the D_{B} agree
 361 well with those previously reported for Na-Ca-Al borosilicates of 1.7×10^{-17} $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ (90 °C,
 362 20 m^{-1} , 28 days in DI water) [96] and Na-Al borosilicates of 9×10^{-18} $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ (90 °C, 2000 m^{-1} ,
 363 150 days, pH 7) [21], but are significantly higher than those reported for Na borosilicates during
 364 the residual rate of 2.6×10^{-19} $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ (90 °C, 8000 m^{-1} , 2200 days in DI water) [16,17].



366 Figure 2: Normalised releases of B (a), Na (b) and Li (c) with the normalized releases of Si subtracted and the normalised
 367 releases of Si (d) plotted against the square root of time ($s^{0.5}$). Uncertainties are given to 1 S.D. (Equation 3) and range from
 368 15 to 30% (RSD).

369 Table 2: Diffusivities of B, Li and Na calculated through linear regressions of the normalised B, Li and Na releases corrected
 370 for the normalized Si releases against the square root of time ($s^{0.5}$) (Equation 5). Note that regressions took place for all
 371 durations at 40 °C and up to 7 days at 90 °C (linear region). R^2 values associated with these fits are also reported. Values in
 372 parentheses represent uncertainties of 1σ propagated from 1 S.E. of the regression coefficient and glass density.
 373

T (°C)	Sample	D_{B} ($\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$)	R^2	D_{Li} ($\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$)	R^2	D_{Na} ($\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$)	R^2
40	MW	$3.1(6) \times 10^{-18}$	0.9970	$2.0(2) \times 10^{-18}$	0.9970	$1.6(2) \times 10^{-18}$	0.9973
	MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li	$1.4(3) \times 10^{-18}$	0.9985	$1.3(2) \times 10^{-18}$	0.9989	$1.1(1) \times 10^{-18}$	0.9982
90	MW	$2.5(5) \times 10^{-17}$	0.9706	$1.5(4) \times 10^{-17}$	0.9694	$1.3(4) \times 10^{-17}$	0.9662
	MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li	$1.0(2) \times 10^{-17}$	0.9375	$7.7(21) \times 10^{-18}$	0.9411	$7.7(20) \times 10^{-18}$	0.9385

374

375 **3.2. Machine learning predictions**

376 ML predictions of the base glass NL_i with algorithms trained on the ALTGLASS database
377 showed significant variations in test MSE as a function of feature subset and algorithm chosen.
378 Consistent with previous studies on predicting static glass dissolution using ML methods on
379 unstructured datasets, accurate predictions could not be obtained where more than one ‘key’
380 NL_i (B, Li or Na) was absent from the feature subset and the ‘complete’ feature set
381 (experimental features, leachate pH and all other NL_i) yielded the best predictions [41]. A table
382 of the feature subsets considered in this work and potential additional features to consider in
383 future work is presented in Table S2.

384 The lowest test MSE and highest R^2 (four responses considered) was attained using a bagged
385 random forest (RF) algorithm across all feature subsets considered. This is attributable to the
386 RF algorithm comprising bootstrap aggregation (bagging), uncorrelated trees arising from
387 considering a random feature subset at each internal node individually, and leaf node number
388 being tuned as a hyperparameter without cost-complexity pruning. In turn, this results in the
389 inability of the RF algorithm to overfit the data through the number aggregated of trees and
390 mitigates against underfitting in many applications, frequently affording accurate predictions
391 of complex feature-response relationships and low test MSE where the number of training
392 observations is sufficiently high [97]. The comparatively poorer metrics of support vector
393 machines and the neural network are consistent with previous observations that these
394 optimisation and search algorithms are highly sensitive to local minima and so cannot
395 accurately predict the highly periodic nature of the glass composition-dissolution behaviour
396 relationship [36]. An in-depth discussion of algorithm performance on the ALTGLASS
397 database and compiled independent unstructured databases as a function of feature subset has
398 been presented previously [39].

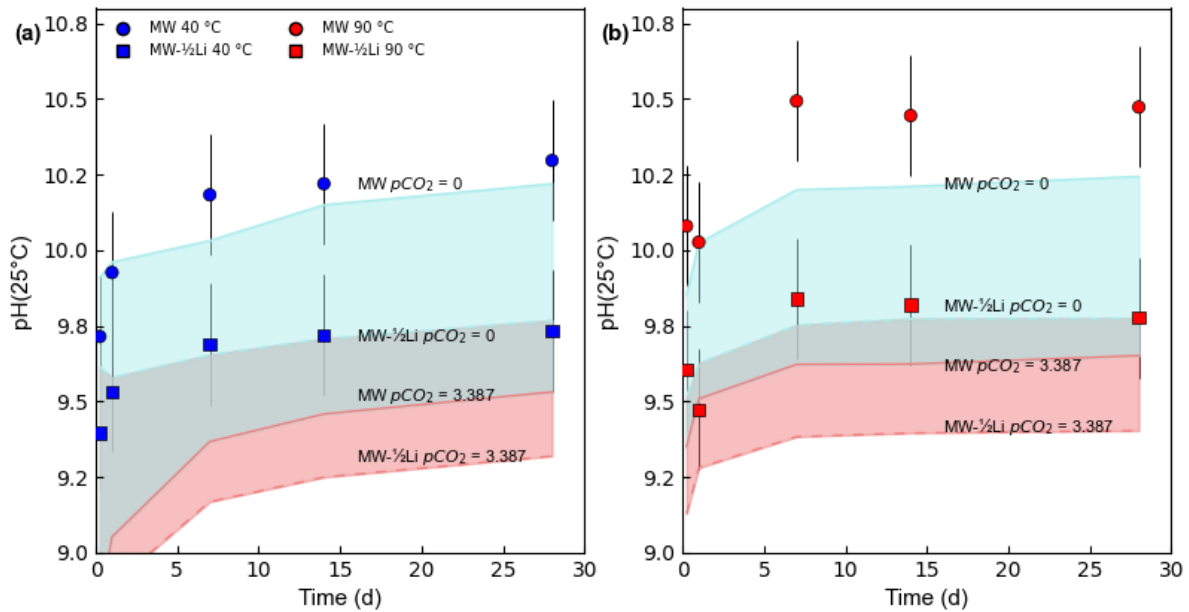
399 Residuals for the best performing algorithm and feature subset showed significant variations
400 as a function of response cation, time and temperature (NL_i predictions as lines in Figure 1);
401 these general trends as a function of NL_i magnitude are also demonstrated in a plot of predicted
402 against measured NL_i (Figure S6). Predicted NL_B were all within uncertainty of the measured
403 values for MW, whilst for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li 6 hours 40 °C was underestimated and 7 and 14 days 40 °C
404 and 28 days 90 °C were overestimated. Predicted NL_{Na} were generally excellent, but at 6 hours
405 or 1 day were either underestimated or overestimated. Whilst all NL_{Li} predictions were accurate
406 for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li at 90 °C and both compositions at 40 °C except for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li at 6 hours
407 (overestimated), the MW 90 °C predictions attained a significantly underestimated, early
408 plateau from 1 day onwards. Similar behaviour was observed for the NL_{Si} predictions for MW
409 at 90 °C from 7 days onwards, which attained an apparent steady state at the correct time but
410 was significantly underestimated. NL_{Si} predictions for 90 °C MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li were accurate but were
411 generally overestimated at 40 °C for both glasses.

412 These measured-predicted discrepancies likely arose due to some observations in the base glass
413 dataset lying outside the ALTGLASS feature space, which is inhomogeneous: (1) ALTGLASS
414 observations with DI water leachant corresponded to either 90 or 200 °C experiments such that
415 extrapolation to 40 °C was required; (2) leaching time in the database is typically ≥ 7 days
416 (98.37% observations) and is ≥ 10 hours (0.77% observations at 10 hours), such that times
417 < 7 days were not well represented and required extrapolation below 10 hours; and (3) the SiO_2
418 and B_2O_3 wt.% compositions of MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li were outside the ALTGLASS feature space
419 and Li for MW was poorly represented (95.70% observations were lower).

420 **3.3. Solution pH and activities**

421 Measured $pH(25^\circ C)$ for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li remained constant with time at 40 and 90 °C (mean: $9.61 \pm$
422 0.35 and 9.70 ± 0.35 , respectively), whilst $pH(25^\circ C)$ increased for MW up to 7 days at 40 and

423 90 °C (28 days: 10.30 ± 0.20 and 10.47 ± 0.20 , respectively) (Figure 3). Calculated pH(25°C)
 424 from measured concentrations showed better agreement with measured values using a
 425 $p\text{CO}_2 = 0.000$ (Figure 3). Assigning uncertainties of ± 0.20 pH units to the calculated pH(T),
 426 the MW and MW-½Li pH(40°C) were constant with time (mean: 9.92 and 9.55, respectively)
 427 and pH(90°C) increased up to 1 d (28 days: 9.93 and 9.49, respectively) (Tables S3 and S4).



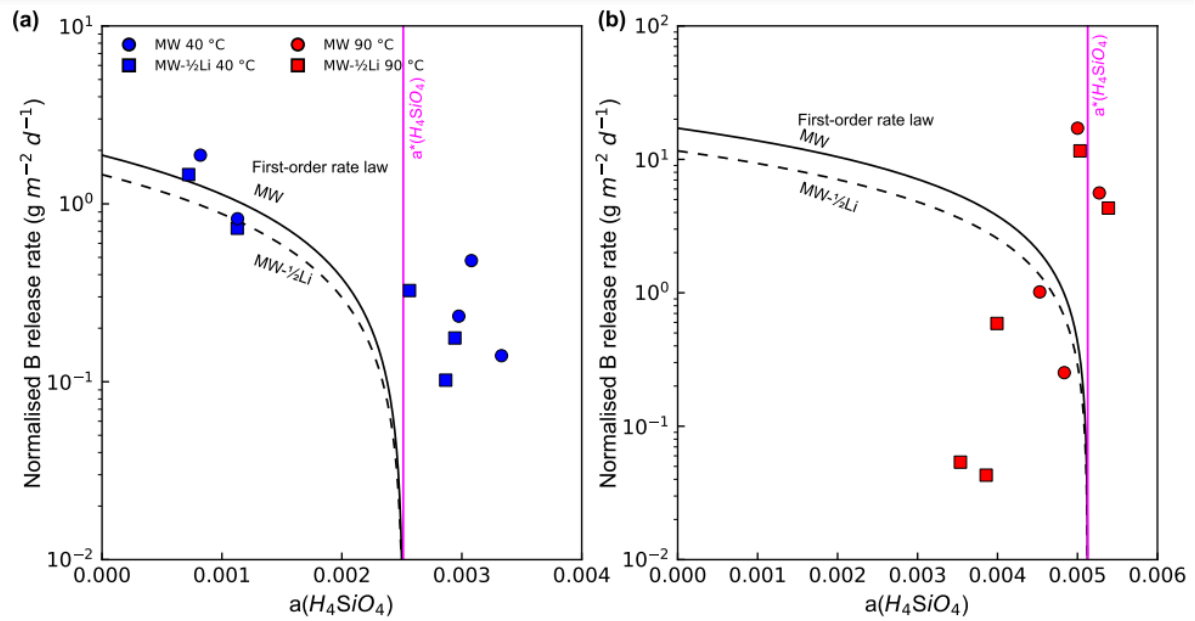
428

429 *Figure 3: Measured pH(25°C) for the 40 (a) and 90 °C (b) leachates (markers). Uncertainties are reported as ± 0.20 pH units*
 430 *(Section 2.3). The top and bottom edges of each shaded region (labelled) correspond to pH(25°C) for each composition*
 431 *calculated by PHREEQC using the measured leachate concentrations assuming $p\text{CO}_2$ of 0.000 and 3.387, respectively.*

432 The $\ln(r_B)$ showed a near-linear trend with the $a(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$ at 40 °C which continued beyond
 433 $a^*(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$ (saturation with respect to $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$), whilst the $a(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$ at 90 °C varied about the
 434 $a^*(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$ seemingly independent of the dissolution rate (Figure 4). The latter variations in
 435 $a(\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4)$ are attributable to small variations in the pH(90°C) with time at values near the pK_a
 436 of the reaction $\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4 \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{SiO}_4^- + \text{H}^+$ (9.17 at 90 °C [98]).

437 Taking the deviations from the first-order rate law as characteristic times for the start of residual
 438 rate regime, t_r , yielded values of 7 days at 40 °C and < 6 hours (no clear inflection observed)
 439 at 90 °C. These values are significantly shorter than the t_r of 180 days reported for Li and B-
 440 bearing basaltic glasses (30 and 90 °C, DI water, S/V of 10^5 m^{-1}) [82] and 200 to 450 days for

441 glasses ranging in complexity from Na-Al borosilicates to a full-scale simulant HLW glass
 442 (SON68) (90 °C, DI water, S/V of 8000 m⁻¹) [16]. However, the t_r for ternary Na borosilicates
 443 has also been previously reported as < 1 day (90 °C, DI water, S/V of 8000 m⁻¹ [17].



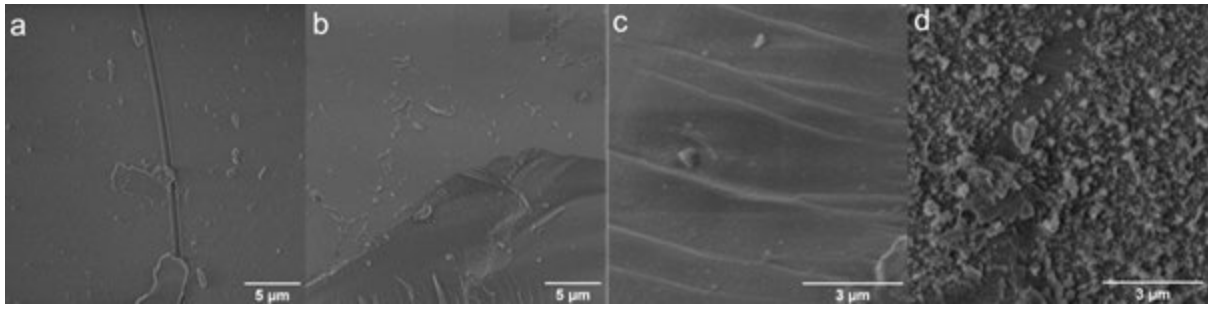
444

445 *Figure 4: Normalised B release rates (log scale) against $a(H_4SiO_4)$ for the 40 °C (a) and 90 °C (b) solution concentrations.*
 446 *Black lines show first-order rate laws (Equation 6) with magenta lines denoting $a^*(H_4SiO_4)$ with respect to $(SiO_2)_{am}$.*

447

448 3.4. Imaging and compositional analyses of the glass surfaces

449 SE images of the leached particles revealed small precipitate clusters after 28 days at 40 °C,
 450 whilst at 90 °C secondary phases formed in sparse patches and near-uniform layers across the
 451 particle surfaces for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li and MW, respectively (Figure 5).



452
453 *Figure 5: SE images of leached powder surfaces. MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li leached for 28 days at 40 °C (a) and 90 °C (b) and MW leached for*
454 *28 days at 40 °C (c) and 90 °C (d).*

455 EDS revealed four phases were present for both samples leached at 90 °C: (1) a smooth surface
456 rich in Si, (2) surfaces covered in secondary phases rich in Na relative to (1), and clusters of
457 (3) Na-rich and (4) Si-rich precipitates (Figure 6). Consistent with less significant surface
458 alteration at lower temperatures, only Si-rich and Na-rich surface features and no precipitate
459 clusters of sufficient size for analysis were observed at 40 °C (Figure S7). The measured Si/Na
460 and Si/O ratios of these phases are presented in Table 3.

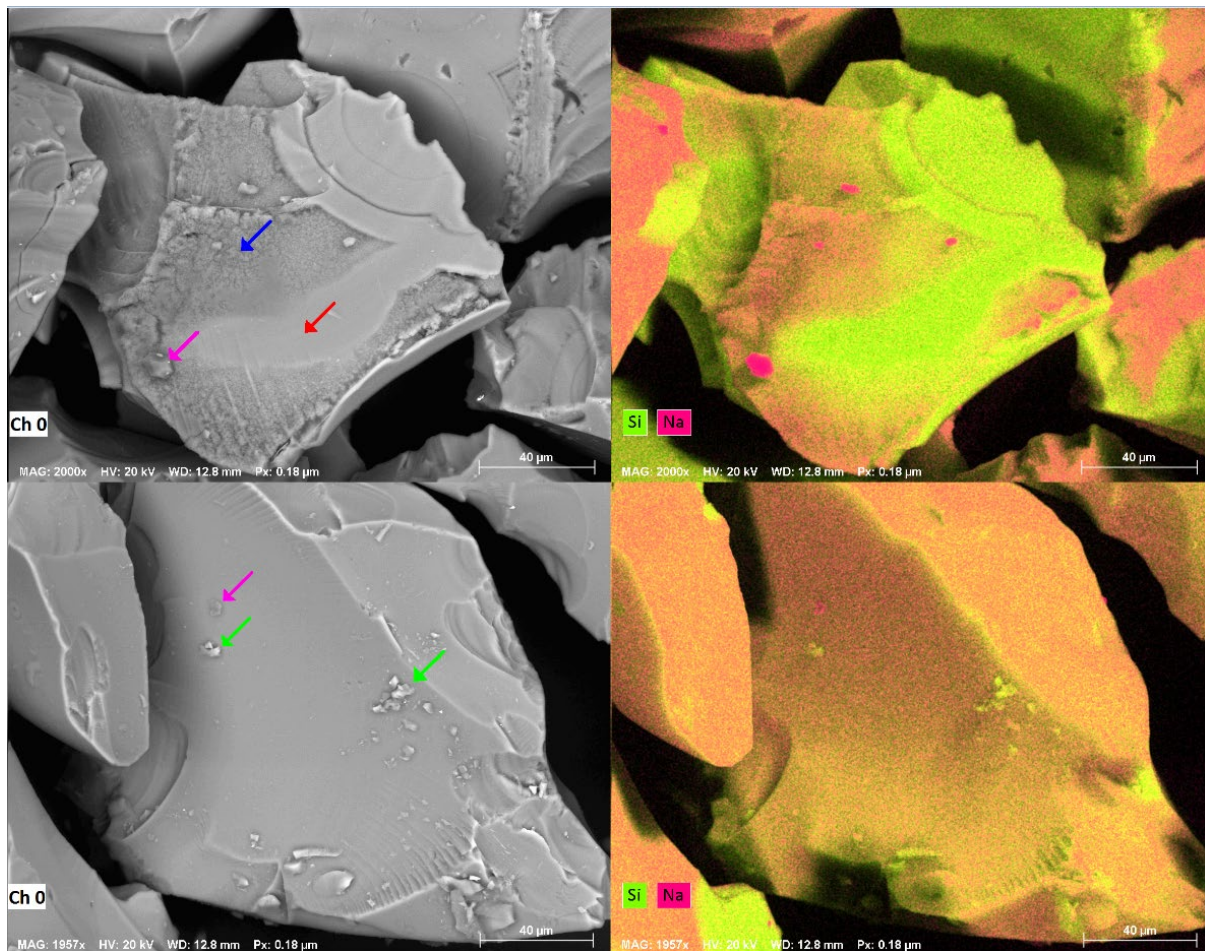
461 The Si-rich surface composition was consistent with either the preferential leaching of Na or
462 complete dissolution-precipitation to leave a Si-rich altered surface, whilst the Na-rich surface
463 layer was consistent with the precipitation of Na-bearing secondary phases. Whilst the Si/Na
464 ratio of the Na-rich precipitate was in broad agreement with that of magadiite for MW
465 ($\text{NaSi}_7\text{O}_{13}(\text{OH})_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$), for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li it better corresponded to natrosilite ($\text{Na}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$).
466 Differences in the Si/Na ratios of the precipitate-covered surfaces between MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li
467 are attributable to the higher Li contents of the former alongside the comparatively smaller
468 precipitates for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li likely resulting in a larger fraction of the interaction volume
469 representing the underlying altered or pristine glass. This view is consistent with the leached
470 Si-rich surfaces free from secondary phases having Si/Na ratios being within uncertainty for
471 MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li.

472

473 *Table 3: Elemental molar ratios for the nominal pristine compositions and the mean EDS measurements for the 28 day 40 and*
 474 *90 °C leached samples. Uncertainties correspond to 1 S.D. propagated from individual values. Note that the Si-rich and Na-*
 475 *rich surfaces were averaged across 40 and 90 °C, whilst the Na-rich and Si-rich phases were only observed at 90 °C.*

Phase	MW		MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li	
	Si/Na	Si/O	Si/Na	Si/O
Pristine (nominal)	2.9	0.3	2.9	0.3
Si-rich surface	14.2 ± 3.1	0.5 ± 0.1	12.6 ± 1.7	0.5 ± 0.1
Na-rich surface	6.5 ± 1.3	0.5 ± 0.1	3.4 ± 0.6	0.5 ± 0.1
Na-rich phase	7.8 ± 1.7	0.5 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.3	0.4 ± 0.2
Si-rich phase	10.1 ± 1.3	0.5 ± 0.1	5.4 ± 0.9	0.5 ± 0.1

476



477

478 *Figure 6: BSE images (left) and EDS compositional maps (right) of Si (yellow) and Na (magenta) for the MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li 90 °C 28*
 479 *day sample. Arrows in the BSE images correspond to the Si-rich surface (red), Na-rich surface (blue), Na-rich precipitates*
 480 *(magenta) and Si-rich precipitates (green).*

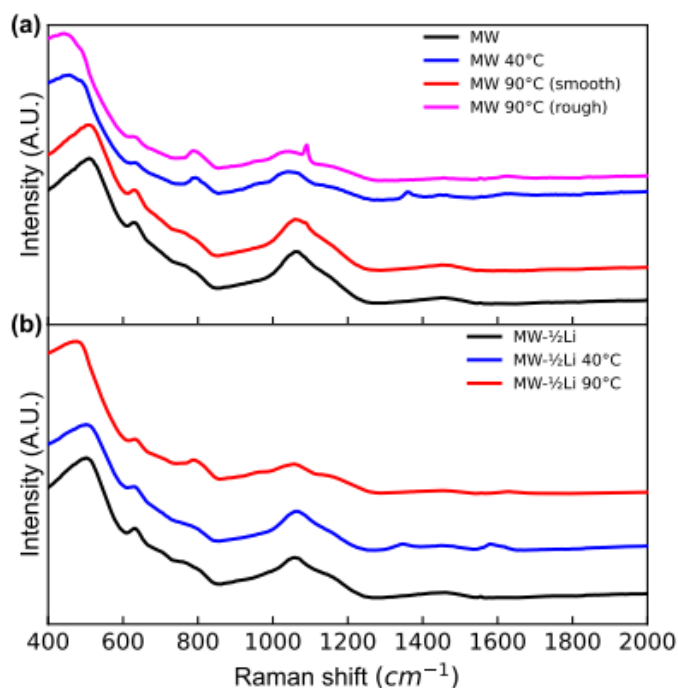
481 Pristine MW has been previously studied by Raman spectroscopy [99]. The Raman spectra of
 482 pristine and leached MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li are presented in Figure 7. Notably, two surface
 483 morphologies were visible by optical microscopy for MW at 90 °C: a ‘smooth’ featureless
 484 surface with a spectrum resembling the pristine glass and a ‘rough’ highly altered surface.

485 For MW at 40 °C and ‘rough’ MW and MW-½Li at 90 °C, there was a slight reduction in the
486 band at approximately 640 cm⁻¹ and a significant decrease in the band at approximately
487 1450 cm⁻¹. The former is attributable to metaborate rings [100], ^{IV}B units in danburite-like units
488 [101] or a combination of both [102], whilst the latter is attributable to boroxol rings and B-O
489 bonds [91,100]. The small broad band at 805 cm⁻¹ decreased but a larger band formed at
490 795 cm⁻¹. The former is attributable to ^{IV}B units [100,101] from borate rings with up to two ^{IV}B
491 units [103–105], whilst the latter represents Si-O-Si bond bending vibrations in amorphous
492 silica [106–108].

493 The band at approximately 510 to 530 cm⁻¹ shifted to 450 to 480 cm⁻¹, and represents the partial
494 deformation and stretching of Si-O-Si bonds [100]. This shift is attributable to increased Qⁿ or
495 a decrease in reedmergnerite unit concentration [87]. Similarly, there is a significant decrease
496 in intensity for the band from 900 to 1250 cm⁻¹, which represents Qⁿ [54,87,100,109]. The
497 significant loss of intensity rendered a quantitative assessment of the change in Qⁿ following
498 dissolution impossible. However, previous ²⁹Si NMR experiments on ISG and simplified
499 borosilicate glasses leached under SiO₂ saturated conditions showed no significant change in
500 Qⁿ in the gel layer [110,111]. Bands at 1630 cm⁻¹ represent free and silanol group H-bonded
501 water bending modes [107].

502 For ‘rough’ MW a sharp band appeared at 1090 cm⁻¹. Comparisons of sodium silicate glasses
503 and crystallised glasses (post-thermal treatment) have previously attributed a similarly sharp
504 peak at 1080 cm⁻¹ to Na₂Si₂O₅ [103] or to the Na silicate hydrate magadiite [112]. The absence
505 of other peaks associated with this phase reflects either its small quantity or poorly crystalline
506 nature. For MW at 40 °C a broad band appeared at approximately 1350 cm⁻¹, which is
507 attributable to B-O-B asymmetric bond stretching for non-ring ‘free’ ^{III}B units [102,108]. This
508 is consistent with the transformation of ^{IV}B to ^{III}B units prior to solvation resulting in a localised
509 increase in the f(^{III}B), which was previously postulated to occur near the gel-solution interface

510 [113]. The absence of this band at 90 °C is due to either an insufficient concentration of ^{III}B or
511 a slower ^{IV}B to ^{III}B unit transformation rate relative to the ^{III}B hydrolysis rate at higher
512 temperatures. The Raman spectrum for MW-½Li at 40 °C was intermediate between that of
513 the pristine glass and MW-½Li at 90 °C with bands at 1350 and 1630 cm⁻¹. Notably, the band
514 at 1630 cm⁻¹ had a higher relative intensity than in the other spectra.



515

516 *Figure 7: Raman spectra for the pristine and leached MW (a) and MW-½Li (b) glasses. Spectra were normalised to the*
517 *intensity of the peak at 450 to 520 cm⁻¹ and stacked for clarity.*

518

519 **3.5. Identification and quantification of secondary phases**

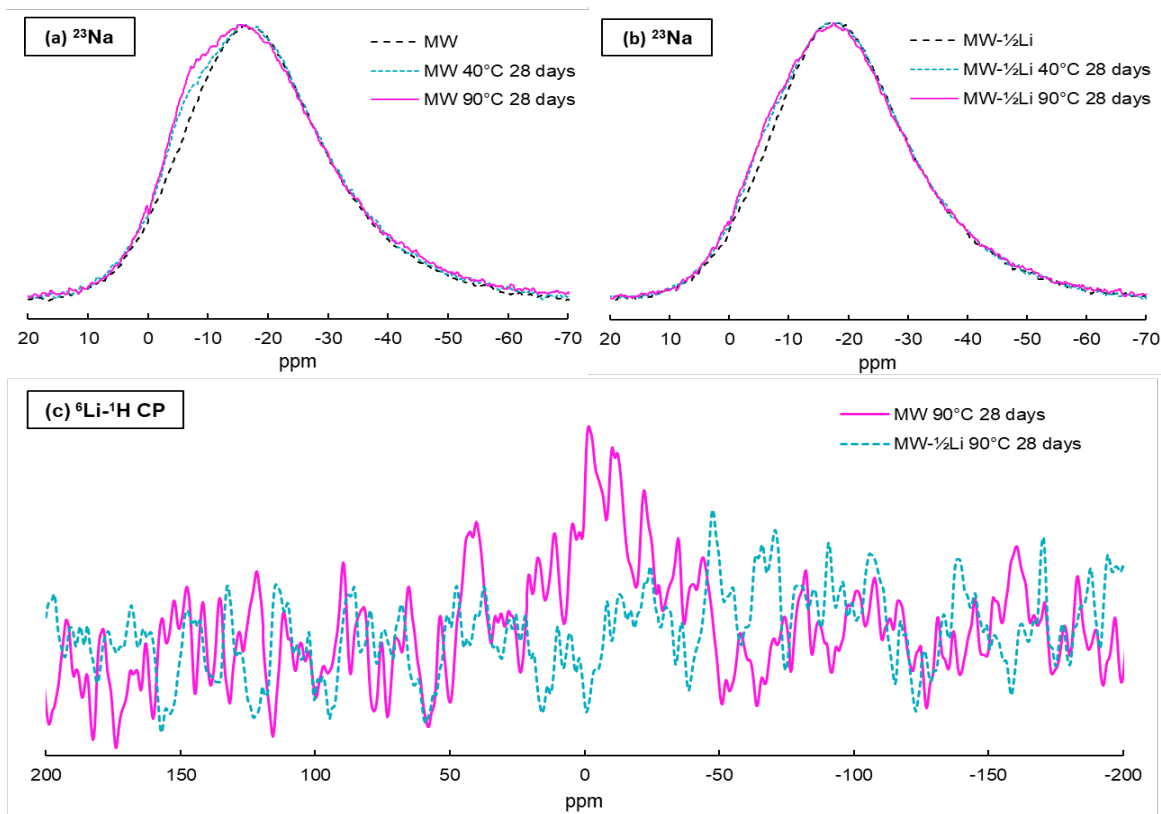
520 XRD revealed no significant changes following dissolution (Figure S5), consistent with the
521 Na-rich secondary phases forming with insufficient mass or crystallinity for detection.

522 PHREEQC calculated saturation indices (Tables S3 and S4, and Figure S8) demonstrated that
523 all leachates were supersaturated with respect to chalcedony, cristobalite (except 40 °C 6 hours)
524 and quartz and were near equilibrium with respect to amorphous silica (except 40 °C 6 and 12
525 hours). The MW leachates from 1 day at 90 °C and 28 days at 40 °C were supersaturated and
526 near equilibrium with respect to di-Li silicate, respectively. Whilst magadiite was

527 supersaturated or near saturation in all but the MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li 40 °C 6 hour leachates, its entry in the
528 database comprised solely a log(K) value. Note that all solutions were undersaturated with
529 respect to all Na silicates in the database (natrosilite, Na₂SiO₃, Na₄SiO₄ and Na₆Si₂O₃).

530 ²³Na MAS-NMR spectra showed that Na was present in an additional environment following
531 dissolution at -5.7 ± 1.1 ppm (Figure 8). A larger fraction of Na in this environment was
532 estimated for MW at 40 °C than MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li at 90 °C despite the latter having a larger estimated
533 fraction of glass altered (Section 3.1). To a first order, the mass of Na in this phase was
534 approximated through quantifying its relative area (Table 4). The chemical shift of this ²³Na
535 MAS-NMR peak is consistent with literature observations for an APCI glass (a 28-component
536 simulant waste glass) leached for 1 month in DI water at 90 °C, with ²³Na-¹H CP-MAS NMR
537 on this sample demonstrating Na retained in the altered layer produced a chemical shift
538 indistinguishable from the pristine glass [114]. Notably, all leachates were undersaturated with
539 respect to Na silicates. Further, the chemical shift falls within the range reported for Na
540 metasilicate hydrates (-7.2 to 2.3 ppm) [115], broadly agrees with values reported for
541 magadiite, kenyaite and octosilicate (-4.8 to -1.7 ppm) [116,117], and does not agree with
542 reported values for crystalline Na metasilicates and disilicates (8.3 to 22.8 ppm experimental,
543 7.6 to 24.1 ppm calculated) [115,118–120]. It was concluded this peak corresponded to a
544 poorly crystalline Na silicate hydrate secondary phase (Figure 6).

545 Water adsorption on the pristine glass was not measurable by static ⁶Li-¹H CP-NMR
546 experiments. At 90 °C 28 days, no signal was observed for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li, whilst a small peak was
547 observed for MW (Figure 8). This is consistent with the PHREEQC calculations in showing
548 that the 90 °C 28 day MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li and MW solutions were undersaturated and supersaturated with
549 respect to a di-Li silicate phase, respectively.



550

551 *Figure 8: ^{23}Na MAS-NMR experiments for pristine and 28 day 40 and 90 °C leached MW (a) and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li (b), and static ^6Li - ^1H CP-NMR experiments for 28 day 90 °C leached MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li (c). Note that ^{23}Na MAS-NMR spectra were normalised*
 552 *to their respective maximum pristine glass peak heights to afford a direct comparison, whilst the ^6Li - ^1H CP-NMR spectra were*
 553 *normalised to the mass of sample analysed and number of scans acquired.*
 554

555 *Table 4: Quantification of the area of the ^{23}Na MAS-NMR peak formed following dissolution (Figure 8) relative to the total*
 556 *area analysed (%), the estimated mass of Na in this phase (mg of phase per g of sample), and quantification of the fraction of*
 557 *^{11}B in the sample relative to ^{10}B ($f(^{11}\text{B})$) before and after dissolution. Uncertainties reported for the Na quantifications are given*
 558 *to 1σ arising from the fitting procedure and are propagated to include dissolution experiment uncertainties. Uncertainties for*
 559 *the B quantifications assumed a conservative 5% uncertainty associated with the quantified area of each peak.*

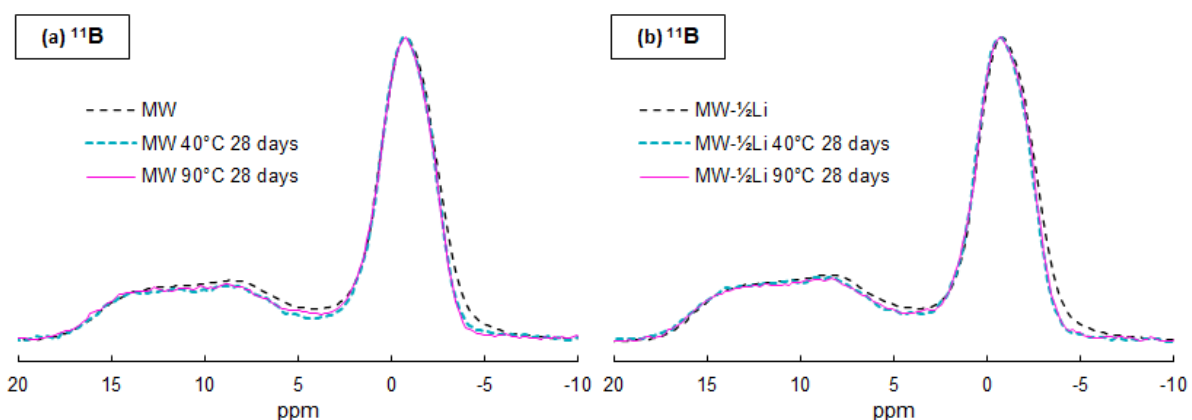
	MW			MWH		
	Pristine	40 °C 28 d	90 °C 28 d	Pristine	40 °C 28 d	90 °C 28 d
New Na peak (%)	-	2.00 ± 0.05	3.28 ± 0.07	-	0.50 ± 0.03	0.66 ± 0.03
[Na] peak (mg g^{-1})	-	1.4 ± 0.4	2.6 ± 0.7	-	0.4 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.1
$f(^{11}\text{B})$	0.342 ± 0.014	0.352 ± 0.015	0.305 ± 0.013	0.353 ± 0.015	0.337 ± 0.014	0.329 ± 0.014
$^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B}$	0.519 ± 0.024	0.543 ± 0.029	0.439 ± 0.025	0.546 ± 0.023	0.509 ± 0.025	0.490 ± 0.025

560

561 3.6. Altered layer structures

562 The pristine structures of Li-Na (equimolar) borosilicates as a function of composition have
 563 been previously reported in detail elsewhere [48]. Here, the ^{11}B MAS-NMR spectra showed

564 apparent narrowing of the ^{IV}B peak and a decrease in the ^{III}B peak intensity at -4.5 and 7.5 ppm,
 565 respectively, following dissolution (Figure 9). Quantification showed that no significant
 566 change in the fraction of ^{III}B units, $f(^{III}B)$, followed dissolution at 40 °C whilst a slight decrease
 567 in the $f(^{III}B)$ was observed at 90 °C for both compositions (Table 4). This decrease is consistent
 568 with previous ^{11}B MAS-NMR experiments on seven-component borosilicate glasses [20], and
 569 is attributable to the weaker bonding of ^{III}B units to the glass network than ^{IV}B units leading to
 570 a higher fraction of ^{IV}B units being temporarily retained in the gel layer [113]. This decrease
 571 in $f(^{III}B)$ is associated with the preferential hydrolysis of rings, which tend to aggregate, over
 572 ^{IV}B units [16,91], with the ring to non-ring ^{III}B ratio decreasing following dissolution at 90 °C
 573 from 4.80 ± 0.07 to 4.26 ± 0.05 for MW and from 5.44 ± 0.08 to 4.51 ± 0.06 for MW- $\frac{1}{2}Li$.



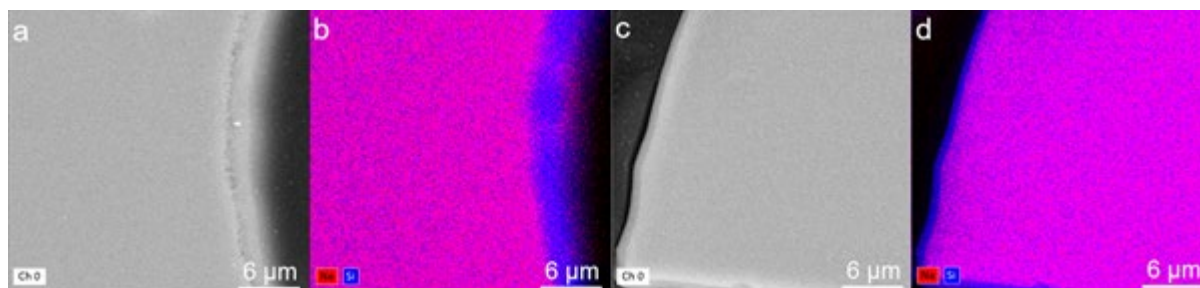
574

575 *Figure 9: ^{11}B MAS-NMR experiments for pristine and 28 day leached MW (a) and MW- $\frac{1}{2}Li$ (b). Spectra were normalised to*
 576 *their respective maximum BO_4 peak heights (-0.8 ppm) to afford a direct comparison between samples.*

577 SEM-EDS of the polished resin-mounted pristine MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}Li$ powders showed no
 578 alteration occurred during resin mounting and polishing (Figure S9). At 40 °C, well-defined
 579 altered layers depleted in Na were visible for both MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}Li$ (Figure 10). Altered layer
 580 structures for the 90 °C samples were more complex (Figure 11): MW- $\frac{1}{2}Li$ particles now
 581 contained large regions of alteration (Na depletion), with some particles comprising Si-rich
 582 layers covering Na-bearing cores which contained voids. Similar features were observed for
 583 MW at 90 °C, but with many of these Si-rich layers being detached from each other and some

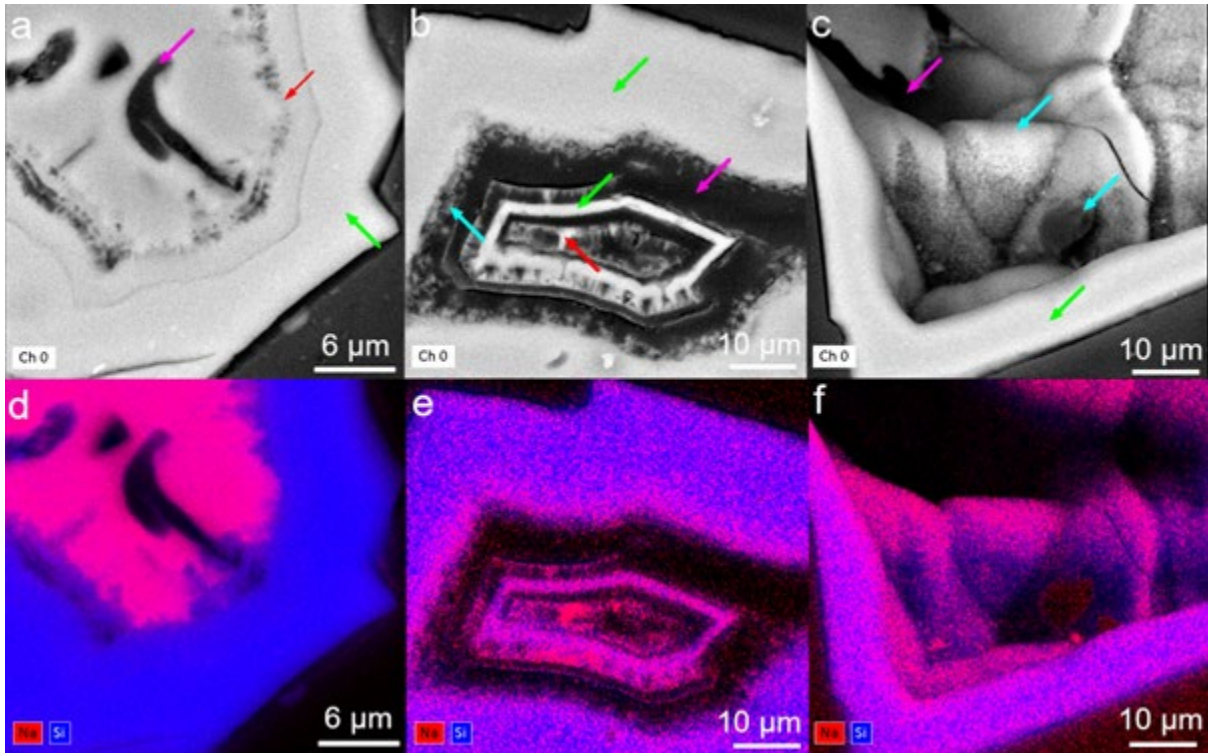
584 particles exhibiting significant apparent internal alteration alongside secondary phase
585 precipitation.

586 Quantification of these EDS maps (Table S5) confirmed these observations, showing that at
587 40 °C the main particle phase was unaltered whilst the alteration layer had lost 51 to 58% of
588 its initial Na contents. At 90 °C, the Si-rich layers were nearly entirely depleted in Na, whilst
589 the inside surfaces of the innermost layers (where multiple were observed) were partially
590 enriched in Na relative to outer layer. Maps of particles where these layers were well separated
591 show that this is attributable to the internal precipitation of Na-bearing secondary phases. The
592 Na-bearing cores in the MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li particles were slightly depleted in Na and within
593 error of the measured pristine composition, respectively. Where inner precipitates were
594 observed in the 90 °C MW sample these were enriched in Na relative to their surroundings,
595 with the Si/Na ratios with uncertainty of those at the surface (12.3 ± 3.5 and 7.8 ± 1.5 ,
596 respectively). These results suggest the layered Si-rich layer-core structures act as an
597 intermediate step between an alteration layer forming and significant internal alteration.



598
599 *Figure 10: BSE images (a and c) and EDS Na (red) and Si (blue) maps (b and d) for MW (a and b) and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li (c and d)*
600 *leached for 28 days at 40 °C.*

601



602

603 *Figure 11: BSE images (a, b and c) and EDS Na (red) and Si (blue) maps (d, e and f) for the resin-mounted particles of 28-*
 604 *day 90 °C leached MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li (a and d) and MW (b, c, e and f). Arrows denote voids (magenta), the Na-bearing cores (red),*
 605 *Si-rich layers ('shells') (green) and Na-rich secondary phases (cyan).*

606 Where an altered layer was evident (40 °C) or a near-unaltered core was present (90 °C), altered
 607 layer thicknesses for the 28-day leached samples were estimated using ImageJ software (NIH)
 608 through thresholding the Na-Si EDS maps. Thicknesses of 3.9 ± 0.9 and 30.4 ± 5.9 μm were
 609 estimated for MW at 40 and 90 °C, respectively, and 0.8 ± 0.2 and 8.7 ± 0.8 μm for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li
 610 at 40 and 90 °C, respectively. Notably, these values for 90 °C, 40 °C MW and 40 °C MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li
 611 are significantly higher, within uncertainty and significantly lower, respectively, than the
 612 thicknesses estimated from the leachate B concentrations using a shrinking core model. This is
 613 in part attributable to dissolution proceeding in a non-uniform manner, as evidenced by
 614 observed variations in altered layer thicknesses even within a given particle.

615 4. Discussion

616 4.1. Insights from machine learning predictions

617 Excluding the significantly underestimated predicted long-term releases (Li and Si from MW
618 at 90 °C), the predicted NL_i were generally excellent: 65.0% and 93.9% were within 25% of
619 their measured values and all predictions were within 66.0% and 34.0% at 40 and 90 °C,
620 respectively. The accurate predictions for NL_B and NL_{Na} are consistent with previous
621 observations that NL_{Na} is a strong feature for learning NL_B in the ALTGLASS database [39].
622 The comparatively poorer predictions at 40 °C are attributable to the ALTGLASS feature space
623 requiring extrapolation for this lower temperature, suggesting either (1) poor correlation
624 between the temperature dependence of dissolution for complex glasses in ALTGLASS from
625 90 to 200 °C and the base glasses from 40 to 90 °C, or (2) differences in the rate of change of
626 feature importance weights or predictive strength as a function of temperature in these two
627 temperature ranges.

628 Excluding NL_{Li} and NL_{Si} for MW at 90 °C, the prediction residuals were not systematic. These
629 were attributable to uncertainties associated with the ALTGLASS feature space often requiring
630 extrapolation (absence of data: <90 °C, similar B_2O_3 and SiO_2 wt.%, and <10 hours) or being
631 heterogeneous (lack of data: < 7 days and similar Li_2O wt.% to MW), thereby destabilising the
632 accuracy of these predictions. However, it should be noted that first order analysis revealed no
633 clear correlation between predictions and measurements being within propagated uncertainty
634 and these feature space factors; the predictability of a response for an observation outside the
635 training feature space is also influenced, in part, by the algorithm used and the monotonicity of
636 the feature-response relationship [38]. Further, given the large number of experimental
637 features, the diversity of reported literature observations for these features and the long

638 timescales required for data acquisition associated with glass dissolution experiments, the curse
639 of dimensionality is significant when predicting glass dissolution behaviour.

640 Predicted N_{Li} and N_{Si} for MW at 90 °C reached a significantly underestimated constant
641 value and apparent steady state, respectively, with Li predicted to reach this early (1 instead of
642 7 days). The excellent N_B predictions for all experiments, N_{Li} predictions for MW at 40 °C
643 and N_{Si} for MW-½Li at 90 °C all demonstrate this is not solely attributable to the MW Li_2O
644 and SiO_2 wt.% being largely outside the ALTGLASS feature space. All measured leachate
645 concentrations and their ratios were well within this feature space (see also Section 2.5).
646 Notably, the excellent predicted N_{Si} for MW-½Li at 90 °C and comparatively poorer
647 predictions for all other experiments coincide with an apparent steady state Si concentration
648 being reached before 6 hours for the former and after 7 days for the latter. Further, the predicted
649 N_{Li} at 90 °C for MW-½Li are higher than MW at 7 and 14 days before converging to similar
650 values at 28 days (7.72 and 7.59 g m⁻², respectively), despite the higher measured pH, other
651 N_{Li} and Li_2O wt.% for MW and identical initial experimental conditions. This shows that these
652 features in isolation are not responsible for these anomalous predictions.

653 Whilst four N_{Li} were predicted as responses, all reported oxide wt.% species of the complex
654 glasses from the ALTGLASS database were used as features, excluding those removed during
655 feature selection. In turn, whilst Li_2O , B_2O_3 , Na_2O and SiO_2 wt.% features for the base glasses
656 were non-zero, all other oxide wt.% elements were set to zero (complete list of oxides
657 considered in Table S2). It is postulated that these compositional features or combinations
658 thereof limited the predicted N_{Li} and N_{Si} . For example, all observations in the ALTGLASS
659 database with >200 µg mL⁻¹ Li at 28 days, 90 °C and 2.0 ± 0.2 m² L⁻¹ were Mg-bearing. The
660 absence of these species from the base glass compositions in effect creates a pseudo-limit
661 where ALTGLASS-trained algorithms are unable predict higher N_{Li} unless these additional
662 compositional species are present, which appears only slightly influenced by the N_{Li} features.

663 The higher predicted NL_{Si} limit for MW at 90 °C shows that the differences in observations
664 between MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li, such as the non-response NL_i values, exerted a greater influence
665 on the predicted 90°C NL_{Si} than the NL_{Li} .

666 These poorer NL_{Li} and NL_{Si} predictions may be interpreted as reflecting greater similarities in
667 the dissolution behaviour of MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li and the complex ALTGLASS glasses at 90 °C than for
668 MW, and hence differences in the dissolution behaviour of MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li at 90 °C.
669 However, it should be noted that ML predictions for a given algorithm depend on the training
670 dataset, including the optimal hyperparameters selected by cross-validation, and its relation to
671 the test data. In turn, heterogeneity or extrapolation of the ALTGLASS feature space for some
672 experimental features herein prevent correlating these differences in predictions with
673 differences in mechanisms. Whilst ML presents a useful tool for identifying glasses with
674 similar or anomalous predictions (clustering), there is insufficient evidence here to correlate
675 such predictions with similarities in dissolution mechanisms between glasses.

676 Overall, the bagged random forest algorithm predictions for NL_B and NL_{Na} were accurate,
677 capturing the significant differences in dissolution behaviour between MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li
678 despite these glasses comprising identical elemental species. This demonstrates potential for
679 the use of compiled structured datasets in predicting NL_i in small-scale glass dissolution
680 laboratory experiments, without needing to explicitly assume the mechanisms underpinning
681 dissolution. However, the comparatively poorer overall predictions for NL_{Li} and NL_{Si} highlight
682 the importance of underpinning these methods with an extensive, diverse and homogeneous
683 training dataset. The poor predictability observed when using feature subsets lacking other NL_i
684 suggests that the standalone ML methods applied herein may be complementary to dissolution
685 experiments wherein only limited data are acquired, such as during the continuous monitoring
686 of leachate pH and B concentrations through in-situ Raman spectroscopy [121,122].
687 Ultimately, these results have shown that further improvements, likely both in the methods

688 (beyond standalone models [36]) and the datasets used, are required to predict dissolution
689 behaviour from experimental features. Future datasets could also include additional features,
690 such as physics-informed features, to improve prediction accuracy for some species (see
691 Table S2). For example, a cationic strength feature could assist in further distinguishing
692 between the effects of Li and Na, with the Li/Na ratio having been shown to significantly
693 influence dissolution behaviour in certain systems [20,44,93]. This has significant implications
694 for predicting behaviour for relatively less studied dissolution conditions, such as highly
695 alkaline environments [123], and phenomena, such as resumption (stage III) [124–127]. It is
696 anticipated cluster analysis (unsupervised learning) will be a valuable next step: cluster analysis
697 groups glass compositions and experimental conditions to provide a data-driven perspective on
698 how these features affect dissolution behaviour and which are crucially important.

699 **4.2. Changes in dissolution behaviour with Li content and temperature**

700 Two competing pristine structure effects caused differences in the dissolution kinetics of MW
701 relative to MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li. First, the higher total alkali concentration of MW enhances dissolution
702 through lowering Q^n , in turn also relaxing steric constraints associated with activated complex
703 formation during hydrolysis [128]. This is also consistent with percolation theory, where alkalis
704 form nanoscale clusters with localised alkali-alkali order which interconnect above a threshold
705 concentration to yield rapid ion transport [129–131]. The faster rupture of alkali and B-bearing
706 bonds relative to Si-O-Si facilitates faster glass hydration and exposes a greater effective surface
707 area of the Si network for hydrolysis [95,132,133].

708 Second, the cationic field strengths of Li and Na causes differences in their short and medium
709 range order [129]: Li preferentially forms Si network Li-NBO bonds over charge compensating
710 $[\text{BO}_4]^-$ [48,90]. Deviating from an equimolar Li/Na ratio has been shown to be detrimental to
711 aqueous durability [20,93], likely due to the different ionic radii of Li and Na inhibiting

712 transport along shared percolation pathways [134]. Similarly, a B/Na ratio of 1.0 optimises
713 aqueous durability in Na borosilicates [95]; the [total alkali]/B ratios are 1.14 and 0.56 for MW
714 and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li, respectively. As such, the higher total alkali concentration effects are likely
715 partially offset by the equimolar Li/Na ratio and near-unity [total alkali]/B ratio of MW. The
716 normalised B releases being within uncertainty for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li up to 7 days at 40 °C is
717 attributable to a slower rate of hydrolysis at lower temperatures weakening the Qⁿ effect [135].
718 The calculated pH(40,90°C) being higher and the measured pH(25°C) increasing up to 7 days
719 for MW facilities more extensive hydrolysis due to a higher Si concentration being required to
720 reach a steady-state in solution [98,136]. The higher Si concentrations for MW at both
721 temperatures are therefore attributable to the Qⁿ effect and higher leachate pH.

722 The higher leachate concentrations for MW resulted in higher rates of Na silicate hydrate
723 precipitation and the precipitation of di-Li silicate at 90 °C and likely at 40 °C. A higher degree
724 of alteration and larger estimated relative masses of Na silicate hydrate secondary phases were
725 observed for MW but normalised Na releases were within uncertainty for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li
726 up to 28 days at 90 °C. This suggests the precipitation of di-Li silicate raises affinity for
727 hydrolysis, resulting in further Si release which then precipitates as both phases to increase the
728 mass of Na incorporated into secondary phases. In consuming Si, both precipitates drive
729 affinity for gel or glass dissolution to inhibit condensation reactions and the formation of a
730 passivating gel. At 40 and 90 °C the ratio of Na in secondary phases for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li
731 estimated by NMR are within uncertainty, consistent with the same effect occurring at 40 °C.

732 The SEM-EDS maps, geochemical modelling and Raman spectra were consistent with a gel
733 layer formed of amorphous silica (SiO₂)_{am} at 28 days. Dissolution beyond and around saturation
734 with respect to (SiO₂)_{am} at 40 and 90 °C, respectively, is consistent with the higher solubility
735 of ternary Na borosilicates than (SiO₂)_{am} [137], in contrast with more complex compositions,

736 such as ISG and B-doped basaltic glass [138,139]. In turn, delimiting the residual rate using
737 the solubility of $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$ likely underestimated the true transition times for MW and MW- $\frac{1}{2}\text{Li}$.
738 Notably, ‘free’ water was present in the leached sample Raman spectra, with a higher relative
739 intensity for MW- $\frac{1}{2}\text{Li}$ at 40 °C than at 90 °C or MW at 40 and 90 °C. This shows that gel
740 porosity for MW- $\frac{1}{2}\text{Li}$ at 90 °C and MW was sufficiently large for significant water
741 concentrations to be removed during drying, whilst that at 40 °C for MW- $\frac{1}{2}\text{Li}$ retained more
742 water. This may be attributed to the gel layer forming faster at 90 °C and for MW, providing
743 more time for the porosity of the gel at the surface to age than MW- $\frac{1}{2}\text{Li}$ at 40 °C [95,133].
744 Similarly, the MW gel layer appeared significantly thicker but less passivating. This result at
745 90 °C is consistent with previous deuterated water tracer experiments on Na borosilicates
746 (90 °C, 0.5 M NaHCO_3) which showed that the gel layer at 142 hours presented an ineffective
747 barrier against the transport of water species [140].

748 The observed $t^{-0.5}$ rate dependence for the normalised Li, B and Na releases corrected for Si at
749 40 °C and up to 7 days at 90 °C are consistent with diffusive processes contributing to the
750 normalised releases, with higher apparent diffusivities for MW due to its pristine structure, as
751 described by percolation theory, presenting a weaker barrier to hydration. Notably, the 6 and
752 12 hour leachates at 40 °C were undersaturated with respect to $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$. As such, it is
753 postulated diffusion occurred during the hydration of the pristine glass, ion-exchange or B
754 hydrolysis, and the subsequent outward transport of glass species (interdiffusion), rather than
755 diffusion across the gel layer. Literature SEM, TEM and ToF-SIMS observations showed that
756 gel initially formed on a Na borosilicate (90 °C, $\text{pH}(90^\circ\text{C})$ 9.0, S/V 3000 m^{-1}) as a precipitate
757 through an interface-coupled dissolution precipitation (ICDP) mechanism (complete
758 dissolution through interfacial water spatially and temporally coupled to precipitation), which
759 then transitioned to an incomplete hydrolysis coupled with in-situ reorganisation (condensation
760 and precipitation) mechanism once the gel matured to become sufficiently transport-limiting

761 [79]. In this view, it is postulated diffusion occurred in a narrow width ahead of the Si network
762 hydrolysis front, with hydrolysis being complete and the gel constituting precipitated $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$.
763 However, the results reported herein cannot be used to trace the mechanisms of gel formation
764 and the presence of a mechanistic transition to incomplete hydrolysis cannot be confirmed.

765 Deviation from $t^{-0.5}$ rate dependence at 90 °C shows that diffusive processes did not
766 significantly contribute to the normalised releases beyond 7 days. Observations of gaps
767 between $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$ layers and voids in the ‘cores’ at 28 days 90 °C by SEM-EDS are consistent
768 with in-situ Raman studies on Na borosilicates (90 °C 0.5 M NaHCO_3 and 70 °C 0.1 M HCl)
769 which showed that such regions are water-rich, corresponding in some instances to the
770 interfacial water described by the ICDP model [107,140]. As such, it is postulated that beyond
771 7 days at 90 °C dissolution is controlled by complete network hydrolysis coupled to
772 precipitation in the absence of significant interdiffusion. The lower relative significance of
773 interdiffusion would be favoured earlier at higher temperatures due to the higher activation
774 energy of hydrolysis [135], and may also be affected by the evolution of gel porosity with time.
775 The $t^{-0.5}$ rate dependence and observation of $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$ at the surface for both temperatures by
776 Raman (weak band for MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li at 40 °C) suggested similarities in the dissolution mechanisms
777 at both temperatures before 7 days. However, the timescales probed herein appear insufficient
778 to confirm the presence of interfacial voids at 40 °C.

779 SEM-EDS of the Si-rich layers formed at 90 °C showed that (1) where two layers formed the
780 inner had a higher Na/Si ratio than the outer and (2) these layers had a significantly higher
781 Na/Si for MW than MW- $\frac{1}{2}$ Li. This suggests that Na silicate hydrates precipitated within these
782 layers, with a concentration gradient from the core to the surface resulting in more precipitation
783 in the inner layers than the outer layers. This is supported by the significant amounts of
784 precipitates observed on the inner surfaces of the outer layers and the outer surfaces of the inner
785 layers. The more significant precipitation in these layers for MW is consistent with its larger

786 mass of Na silicate hydrate phase estimated by NMR, facilitated by its higher Si concentration
787 in solution and pH. It is postulated the precipitation of these secondary phases partially blocked
788 porosity, thereby contributing to the passivating properties of these $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$ layers and the
789 slowing of the dissolution rate. However, it cannot be determined if precipitation within the
790 $(\text{SiO}_2)_{\text{am}}$ layers occurred during dissolution, drying or both.

791 Note that the effects outlined above are highly coupled and represent a feedback mechanism
792 for the enhanced dissolution kinetics of MW. Ultimately, the simplistic base glass dissolution
793 behaviour presented here contributes to our understanding of how simultaneous variations in
794 total alkali contents and Li/Na ratios could impact complex HLW glass aqueous durability.
795 However, other effects, such as intermediate network formers, phase separation and secondary
796 phases assemblages also require consideration. It is also notable that the addition of 25 wt.%
797 simulant Magnox HLW to MW significantly improves aqueous durability [141].

798 5. Conclusions

799 Accurate ML predictions of the NL_B and NL_{Na} were achieved for the base glasses where the
800 feature subset included pH and at least one NL_i . Extrapolating the high temperature, long
801 duration feature space defined by complex glass dissolution experiments (ALTGLASS) to
802 40 °C and short times yielded poorer predictions for MW and MW-½Li for some species.
803 However, experimental features outside the training set feature space were shown to not be a
804 requirement for poor predictive performance. The absence of common HLW glass species from
805 the composition of MW, which is itself largely outside the ALTGLASS compositional feature
806 space, resulted in poor predictions of the long-term NL_{Li} and NL_{Si} at 90 °C. Overall, these
807 results highlight the importance of a homogeneous, broad training dataset which covers the
808 compositions and conditions of interest, and highlights potential applications for standalone
809 ML algorithms in complementing continually acquired, in-situ datasets.

810 The faster dissolution kinetics of MW than MW-½Li were consistent with the coupled
811 processes of pristine network depolymerisation, poorly crystalline Na silicate hydrate and di-Li
812 silicate precipitation, and passivating $(SiO_2)_{am}$ gel layer formation inhibition being enhanced
813 for MW. The MW-½Li gel at 40 °C trapped water species more readily during drying, as was
814 consistent with a finer porosity than at 90 °C and MW at both temperatures. Further, the gel
815 formed on MW was observed to be thicker than that formed on MW-½Li, but kinetics
816 suggested it was less passivating at any given time. This is consistent with faster dissolution
817 kinetics producing a larger, more open gel structure with more time for its porosity to mature.
818 BO_3 ring structures were shown to leach preferentially at 90 °C, likely due to their tendency to
819 aggregate. However, significant concentrations of BO_3 observed at the 40 °C surface were
820 consistent with $[BO_4]^-$ transforming prior to dissolution. Diffusive processes were significant
821 at both temperatures, with a slowing rate and evolving gel porosity causing diffusion to become
822 irrelevant at longer times at 90 °C. This result alongside observations of voids in the altered

823 layer structures at long times at 90 °C were most consistent with a transition from interdiffusion
824 coupled with slower complete hydrolysis and precipitation to an ICDP model with time.

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836

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